

Fulfilled Prophecies

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Temple - A Rebuilt Temple Is Not Biblical



By Dan Maines

A Rebuilt Temple Is Not Biblical

Many today expect a third physical temple to be built in Jerusalem as part of God's prophetic plan. They see it as necessary for end-times fulfillment. But this belief contradicts the clear teaching of the New Testament and misunderstands the nature of the fulfilled kingdom. The physical temple had its purpose under the Old Covenant, but God has already brought about the better, lasting temple in Christ and in those who are joined to Him. Let me walk through this from scripture.

The Old Temple Was Temporary and Fading

Hebrews 8:13 - "When He said, 'A new covenant,' He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is about to disappear."

The Old Covenant, including the temple system, was about to disappear in the first century. The writer of Hebrews saw the whole priesthood and temple structure as fading away because it had been replaced by something better.

Hebrews 9:1 - "Now even the first covenant had regulations for divine worship and the earthly sanctuary."

Hebrews 9:11 - "But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things having come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made by hands, that is, not of this creation."

Jesus entered the true tabernacle, not the shadow on earth. To go backward and expect another earthly temple is to ignore the better reality He fulfilled.

Jesus Is the True Temple

John 2:19-21 - "Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'It took forty-six years to build this temple, and yet You will raise it up in three days?' But He was speaking about the temple of His body."

Jesus did not point to a future building. He pointed to Himself. His body is the temple, the place where God and man meet.

Colossians 2:9 - "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form."

God dwells fully in Christ. That makes Him the true and permanent temple.

Believers Are Part of the Temple Only Because They Are in Christ

When we are joined to Christ by faith, we become part of the temple, because we are in Him. We are not separate temples. We are living stones in the spiritual house that is built on Him.

1 Corinthians 6:17 - "But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him."

Ephesians 2:19-22 - "So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit."

The entire structure is growing into a temple, in Him.

1 Peter 2:4-5 - "And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by people, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

The church is a spiritual house, but only as we are joined to the living stone, Jesus. Without Him, we are not a temple.

The Earthly Temple Was Judged and Left Desolate

Matthew 23:38 - "Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!"

Jesus told the religious leaders their temple would be forsaken. Not only abandoned, but destroyed.

Matthew 24:1-2 - "Jesus left the temple area and was going on His way when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. But He responded and said to them, 'Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.'"

This was fulfilled in 70 AD. The temple was destroyed, and not one stone was left upon another. There is no New Testament prophecy telling us a new temple would be built after that.

The Destruction Was the Final Judgment on the Old Temple System

Matthew 24:15-16 - "Therefore, when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place, let the reader understand, then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains."

Luke 21:20 - "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near."

These passages describe the judgment that fell on the Old Covenant system, including its temple. The "abomination" marked its desecration and final rejection. There is no indication in scripture that a third temple would be built after this judgment. In fact, the destruction was God's confirmation that the temple age was over.

No Future Sacrifices Needed

Hebrews 10:10-12 - "By this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all time. Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins,

but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God."

Christ's sacrifice ended the need for all temple sacrifices. To bring them back would be to insult His finished work.

Hebrews 10:18 - "Now where there is forgiveness of these things, an offering for sin is no longer required."

So why build a temple? There is nothing left for it to do. No need for priests, altars, or animal blood.

Conclusion

To expect a future rebuilt temple is to:

Go backward into the shadows rather than forward in the light of Christ

Deny that Jesus fulfilled and ended the Old Covenant

Reject the reality of the church as God's temple in Christ

Look for what God has already fulfilled

God is not returning to bricks and stones. His dwelling is now with His people in Christ. Revelation ends with a stunning reality:

Revelation 21:22 - "I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple."

In the New Jerusalem, there is no temple. Why? Because the temple has been fulfilled and replaced by the presence of God with His people. We don't need to wait for a temple to be built. The true temple already came, already rose from the dead, and already dwells in His people. Jesus is the temple, and we are

part of it, only because we are in Him.

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